



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

**North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**
Division of Marketing

Tom Slade
Director

North Carolina Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Dear Organic Grower,

October 13, 2008

The 2007 Farm bill has passed and in section 10301 The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been directed to implement a new Organic Certification Cost-Share Program.

This program is designed to assist the organic grower with the cost of becoming certified under the National Organic Program. For a farm to be eligible for this program it must be located within the state of North Carolina and must be certified by a business or organization that is accredited by the USDA to certify organic operations

The NCDA & CS will pay 75% of the cost of certification up to a maximum of \$750 to the certifying agency for any certification occurring between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009. Funding for this program comes from a USDA grant to the NCDA & CS. The assistance is available on a first come first serve basis until the funds are depleted.

Please note that if your gross annual income from organic farming is less than \$5,000 per year you do not have to be certified under the national organic standards. However, you should continue using organic production practices in your business as if you are a certified operation.

To take advantage of this offer please contact your certifying agency and inform them that you are going to take advantage of the cost share program in North Carolina. The agency should have the enclosed authorization form. However, one is being sent to you for your use as well. The agency will bill the North Carolina Department of Agriculture 75% of the cost of certification up to \$750.00. They will send in an authorization form, copy of the invoice and copy of the certificate. These forms must be turned in by September 30, 2009.

Should you have any questions please call me at 919-733-7887 ext. 234 or email me at Kevin.Hardison@ncagr.gov

Sincerely;

Kevin Hardison,
Agricultural Marketing Specialist

